IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 10-11, AMEND claims 12 and 14 and ADD claims 19-21 in accordance with the following:

Claims 10-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The architecture as claimed in claim ~~11~~ <u>20</u>, wherein the uniform logical interface also provides function invocations for function classes, which are converted into at least one of sub<u>jacent physical</u> [[-]]network-specific messages and commands and are forwarded to suitable network elements of the different subjacent physical ~~sub~~-networks, and can be processed or carried out there.

13. (previously presented) The architecture as claimed in claim 12, wherein dynamic integration of new network elements is enabled by a new network element registering network element information with a previously registered network element, which stores the network element information and further distributes the network element information to other network elements.

14. (currently amended) The architecture as claimed in claim 13, wherein the dynamic integration of new interfaces of ~~already existing~~ <u>said</u> network elements is enabled by one of ~~the existing~~ <u>said</u> network elements registering new function information with a suitable different network element, which stores the new function information and further distributes the new function information to other network elements.

15. (previously presented) The architecture as claimed in claim 14, wherein identical or similar functions exist which are distributed among a plurality of the network elements.

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16. (previously presented) The architecture as claimed in claim 15, wherein the selection of a function used for a function invocation is made on a specific network node depending on utilization of concerned network nodes.

17. (previously presented) The architecture as claimed in claim 16, wherein the function used in a function invocation can be carried out when distributed among a plurality of the concerned network nodes.

18. (previously presented) The architecture as claimed in claim 17, wherein frequently used basic services are available and can be used in all network nodes.

19. (new) A network architecture of telecommunications networks having distributed physical resources providing data and telecommunications services associated with individual users that are processed and used independently in each telecommunications network, comprising:

at least one group of subnetwork elements for each telecommunications network, forming at least one subjacent physical network in each telecommunications network and providing network functions and network services of the telecommunications network to at least one user independently of other telecommunications networks; and

linked network elements, forming a layer connecting the subjacent physical networks, including system-independent interfaces using a uniform logical interface to make available the network functions of different subjacent physical networks to the at least one user.

20. (new) A network architecture as claimed in claim 19, wherein said linked network elements utilize a distributed operating system to provide the network functions of the different subjacent physical networks to the at least one user.

21. (new) A network architecture as claimed in claim 19, wherein each of said linked network elements provides one of the system-independent interfaces between a communication protocol used by a corresponding one of the subjacent physical networks connected thereto and the uniform logical interface used by all of said linked network elements.